

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated December 12, 2004. Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 10, 24 to 29, and 31 to 36 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1 and 24 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 8, 10, 24, 31 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,364,550 (Petteruti). Claims 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petteruti in view of JP 05169762 (Asakawa). Claims 3 to 5 and 26 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petteruti in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,882,127 (Amano). Claims 6, 7, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petteruti in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,326,179 (Fukai). Claims 9, 11, 13, 32 and 34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petteruti in view of JP 2002086970 (Arai). Claims 11 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Petteruti in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,122,754 (Gotaas). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns a multi-media printer that accepts various kinds of voucher media, such as thermally writable media, smart cards, or magnetic strip cards. The multi-media printer includes writing, reading, and erasing devices within the printer to manage and use the different types of media. In addition, the multi-media printer includes control logic and articulated printing mechanisms that prevent the multi-media printer from inadvertently manipulating a voucher in an inappropriate manner. The design

of the multi-media printer is modular so that voucher media magazines may be replaced as needed.

Turning now to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a multi-media gaming printer comprising a print module comprising two or more heads, each head for reading and writing a different type of card. The two or more heads are selected from the group including a thermal card read/write head comprising a thermal write head and an optical read head, a magnetic strip card read/write head, and a smart card connector. A single media drive is adapted to couple a card inserted into the multi-media gaming printer to each of the heads. A controller is coupled to the two or more heads and the single media drive with the controller adapted to detect the type of the inserted card using the read capabilities of the two or more heads.

In contrast, Petteruti discloses a miniature printer with a printer mechanism in a housing. A thermal printhead is fixedly mounted in the mechanism. The mechanism and the housing define a compartment for a roll of paper which is loosely disposed in the housing and is extended over the thermal printhead. The housing has another cover which extends from the cover carrying the platen roller and covers the housing while exposing an opening in the magnetic card reader and encoder across which a magnetic card may be swiped for reading the data or recording (encoding) new data on the magnetic track of the card. The other cover may have a separate receptacle for a smart card and an associated reader and encoder.

Therefore, as Petteruti's printer has a printhead, a magnetic card reader and a smart card receptacle located at different locations, Petteruti's printer does not have a single media drive coupling an inserted card to each of two or more heads. In addition,

Petteruti's printer has a thermal printhead but does not include any mechanism to read a thermally printed card. As such, Petteruti's printer is incapable of detecting a type of ~~an~~ inserted card using the read capabilities of two or more heads.

As Petteruti fails to disclose a single media drive or a detecting a type of ~~an~~ inserted card, Applicants submit Claim 1 is in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Turning now to Claim 24, Claim 24 calls for, in part, a multi-media gaming printer having two heads, a single media drive and a controller adapted to detect a type of an inserted card using the heads. Applicants submit that the discussion from above in regard to Claim 1 applies equally to Claim 24. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claim 24 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Turning now to Claims 3 and 26, each claim calls for, in part, a media magazine coupled to the controller and operable to receive and transmit media from and to the print module. In contrast, Amano discloses a card printer having a card supply mechanism for forwardly feeding cards from a card stocker. Amano fails to disclose that the card supply mechanism may feed a card back into the card stocker. Therefore, the card supply mechanism of Amano cannot receive and transmit media from and to a print module as called for in the claims.

As neither Petteruti nor Amano disclose a media magazine capable of transmitting media to and from a print module, it cannot be said that the combination of Petteruti and Amano disclose such a media magazine. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 3 and 26 are allowable and respectfully request same.

Claims 6 and 26 call for a multi-media gaming printer having a cleaner for cleaning media inserted into the gaming multi-media printer and a sensor for determining the cleanliness of media inserted into the gaming multi-media printer. Fukai discloses a card cleaning mechanism; however, contrary to the assertion in the Office Action, Fukai only discloses "a sensor 60c as detecting means for detecting the presence of a card 20 within cleaner 60." (Column 4, Lines 23 and 24). Nowhere is Fukai seen to disclose a sensor capable of determining the cleanliness of a card.

As neither Petteruti nor Fukai disclose a cleanliness detector, it cannot be said that the combination of Petteruti and Fukai discloses a cleanliness detector. As such, Applicants submit that Claims 6 and 26 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Claims 9 and 32, call for, in part, a multi-media gaming printer of having an embossing sensor and a controller adapted to retract one or more heads away from an inserted card using an articulated media drive if embossing is detected. Arai appears to disclose an optical embossed character sensor based on either mechanical or optical principles. However, Arai fails to disclose that the embossed character sensor may be used to detect embossing and move a read/write head away from an embossed card.

As neither Petteruti nor Arai disclose an embossing detector used in conjunction with an articulated drive to move a read/write head away from an embossed card, it cannot be said that the combination of Petteruti and Arai discloses an embossing detector used in this way. As such, Applicants submit that Claims 9 and 32 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Claims 12 and 34 call for, in part, a multi-media gaming printer having a capacitance security feature head adapted to read a capacitor structure in an inserted card with the capacitor structure comprising conductive inks. Claims 13 and 35, call for, in part, a multi-media gaming printer having a radio frequency sensor security feature head adapted to read radio waves generated by radio frequency resonators embedded in an inserted card. In contrast, Gotaas appears to disclose a capacitance sensor capable of detecting embossed watermarks in a paper note or document. However, Gotaas fails to disclose a capacitance sensor capable of reading a capacitor structure comprising conductive inks nor does Gotaas disclose sensing radio waves generated from radio frequency resonators embedded in a card.

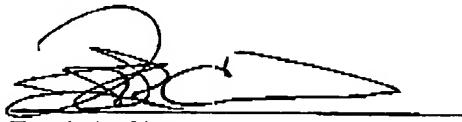
As neither Petteruti nor Gotaas disclose a capacitor structure comprising conductive inks nor radio frequency resonators embedded in a card, the combination of Petteruti and Gotaas cannot be said to disclose either of these features. As such, Applicants submit that Claims 12, 13, 24, and 35 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

Each of the remaining claims depend from at least one of the claims discussed above and are, therefore, believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each dependent claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, and no other matters being raised in the Office Action, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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